

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of enhancing the production of nitric oxide in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, and a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative,

wherein said subject in need thereof is in need of a treatment selected from the group consisting of vasodilation, improvement of blood circulation, enhanced antiplatelet-aggregating activity, ~~antibacterial activity~~, acceleration of absorption at the digestive tract, renal function regulation, neurotransmitting activity, promotion of erection, promotion of learning, and enhancement of appetite.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition further comprises arginine.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said arginine is selected from the group consisting of L-arginine and D-arginine, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 13 (Canceled):

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein said cosmetic composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment..

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher

alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A method of enhancing the production nitric oxide synthase in a living body in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, and a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative,

wherein said subject in need thereof is in need of a treatment selected from the group consisting of vasodilation, improvement of blood circulation, enhanced antiplatelet-aggregating activity, ~~antibacterial activity~~, acceleration of absorption at the digestive tract, renal function regulation, neurotransmitting activity, promotion of erection, promotion of learning, and enhancement of appetite.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises arginine.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said arginine is selected from the group consisting of L-arginine and D-arginine, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 24 (Canceled):

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein said cosmetic composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment..

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-8, 13, and 23 were previously canceled.

Claims 9 and 20 have been amended.

Support for the amendment of Claims 9 and 20 is found at pages 4-8 of the specification as originally filed, for example at page 6, lines 2-8.

No new matter has been added by the present amendments.